

William B. Cooley
P. O. Box 416
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Ms Renata Hesse
Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
Department of Justice
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Ms. Hesse:

Northampton County where I live and grew up, is one of the most economically distressed areas of North Carolina. As the former Mayor of Jackson, our county seat, I know first-hand the economic challenge we face.

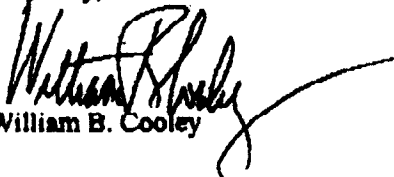
As our nation's economy becomes more heavily dependent on computers, I am concerned that my home county may fall even farther behind. I believe that we must focus on closing the "digital divide." But companies such as Microsoft, and its competitors, will not be able to do that if they continue to spend their time and considerable resources battling in the courts rather than developing new products and services for a wide range of customers.

For that reason, I believe it would be wise public policy for the federal courts to approve the pending settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case. Our state's attorney general has accepted it, for many of the same reasons outlined above.

With our nation facing unprecedented challenges at home and abroad, American business needs to focus on serving the customer, not fighting in the courtroom. I hope the federal court will enable this to happen in this matter.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,


William B. Cooley